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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/973,889	10/09/2001	Phillip Mark Schein	P5572	8981

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EXAMINER

ROBINSON, GRETA LEE

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2177

DATE MAILED: 06/07/2004

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/973,889

Applicant(s)

SCHEIN, PHILLIP MARK

Examiner

Greta L. Robinson

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 October 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-70 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15, 26-30, 38-52 and 63-66 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 16-18, 31-33, 53-55, 67 and 68 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 19-25, 34-37, 56-62, 69 and 70 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2 & 3.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

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### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. Claims 1-70 are pending in the present application.

#### ***Information Disclosure Statement***

2. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on October 9, 2001 and December 9, 2002 is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97.

Accordingly, the information disclosure statement has been considered by the examiner.

#### ***Claim Objections***

3. Claim 70 is objected to because of the following informalities: a typographical error in claim dependency numbering; claim 70 depends on claim 57 and should depend on claim 67. Appropriate correction is required.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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5. Claims 16-18, 31-33, 53-55, 67 and 68 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Plantz et al. US Patent 6,088,702 in view of Fogarasi et al. US Patent 6,128,619.

Regarding claim 16, **Plantz et al.** teaches a method for managing information on a plurality of projects, wherein each project is capable of having a plurality of attribute values [note: abstract], comprising:

receiving user input on a plurality of projects and for each project at least one attribute value [note: figure 1];

generating a main directory [note: col. 6 lines 36-67; col. 8 lines 20-20-56; col. 10 lines 30-62].

Although Plantz et al. teaches the invention as cited above, they do not specifically disclose for each project for which user input is received, performing: (i) generating a subdirectory from the main directory ... generating one attribute file providing the at least one attribute value. Fogarasi et al. teaches this feature. **Fogarasi et al.** teach generating a class definer tool 400 that provides a class generator function 410 that generates the source code for a subdirectory [note: col. 16 lines 8-41; figure 4; also note figures 1, 2 and 6D]. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to have combined the cited references because Plantz teaches access to a given project may be arranged by any one of a number of means and Fogarasi et al. teaches a framework in defining a hierarchical database and record layout may be defined [406 figure 4] with respect to record layout. Fogarasi et al. object framework (i.e. class definer tool 400) would provide the means in Plantz et al. to generate

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various user-defined layouts in which to view the plurality of projects in Plantz et al..

6. Regarding claims 17 and 18, wherein the attribute values for each project are capable of comprising one or more of the following project attribute values; project comments, a project manager, projected completion date ..., and project interrupts [note: Fogarasi et al. col. 14 lines 26-49].

7. The limitations of claims 31-33, 53-55, 67 and 68 parallel method claims 16-18 above; therefore they are rejected under the same rationale.

#### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

8. Claims 1-15, 26-30, 38-52 and 63-66 are allowed. The prior art of record does not disclose storing generated attribute file in the subdirectory of the information class instance for which the attribute value is provided.

9. Claims 19-25, 34-37, 56-62 and 69 objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

#### ***Conclusion***

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

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**Bach et al.** US Patent 6,141,660

**Howard et al.** US Patent 6,519,612 B1

**Simmonds et al.** US Patent 5,893,116

**Schneider** US Patent 6,594,675 B1

**Chouinard** US Patent 6,671,701 B1

**Heitler** US Patent 6,112,212


**Clements** US Patent 6,182,080 B1

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Greta L. Robinson whose telephone number is (703) 308-7565. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri. 9:30AM-6:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John E. Breene can be reached on (703) 305-9790. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



**GRETA ROBINSON**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**

Greta Robinson  
Primary Examiner  
May 27, 2004